

INFLUENZA THERAPEUTIC

Abstract

[00527] The present invention provides methods and compositions for inhibiting
5 influenza infection and/or replication based on the phenomenon of RNA interference
(RNAi) well as systems for identifying effective siRNAs and shRNAs for inhibiting
influenza virus and systems for studying influenza virus infective mechanisms. The
invention also provides methods and compositions for inhibiting infection, pathogenicity
and/or replication of other infectious agents, particularly those that infect cells that are
10 directly accessible from outside the body, e.g., skin cells or mucosal cells. In addition, the
invention provides compositions comprising an RNAi-inducing entity, e.g., an siRNA,
shRNA, or RNAi-inducing vector targeted to an influenza virus transcript and any of a
variety of delivery agents. The invention further includes methods of use of the
compositions for treatment of influenza.

15 3602961_1.DOC